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Kern Educational Telecommunications Consortium

5801 Sundale Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93309
(805) 398-3625

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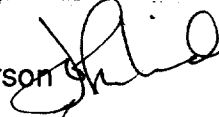
Dr. Thomas N. Jones
Kern High School District

Dr. James C. Young
Kern Community College
District

June 14, 1993

FCC - MAIL ROOM

TO: Donna Searcy

FROM: John Lindsay, Operational Committee Chairperson 

RE: Proposed FCC Rule Making Docket No. 93-106 ITFS Channel Loading.

I realize that you will receive this letter after the deadline but I respectfully request that you accept this late file comment.

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS), as the LEA for the Kern Education Television Consortium, in the strongest terms possible, opposes the concept of "Channel Loading" as proposed in FCC Docket No. 93-106.

Consortium members (Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office serving 49 school districts and 152,207 students; California State University, Bakersfield which has a service area covering 5 counties; Kern Community College District which has 3 campuses and a service area covering 4 counties; Kern High School District, the largest secondary school district in Kern County) acquired several blocks of ITFS frequencies for transmission of a variety of educational and instructional related programs. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools has purchased in excess of three hundred thousand dollars in microwave, signal processing, and studio playback equipment currently in use for distribution of educational, , instructional staff development and related programming via CATV and ITFS channels.

KETC is completing an NTIA planning grant to further develop a telecommunications infrastructure within Kern County and intends to request federal funding from PTFP. This plan relies heavily on substantial utilization of ITFS frequencies at several sites in order to provide educational equity for rural communities. The Kern Educational Television Consortium is currently engaged in planning to connect over 300 learning sites, school, governmental, library, CATV headends and corporate learning sites by the year 2000. ITFS frequencies form an integral part of the plan and intends to request federal funding for PTFP. Channel loading could prevent the consortium from meeting the educational needs of this region.

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